

# eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

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January 9, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell  
Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Dingell,

On behalf of our 22 associations in Michigan and our nearly 300 local associations nationwide, I would like to thank you for your introduction of the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2007, and to formally endorse this legislation.

The YWCA USA is the nation's oldest women's organization. We represent more than two million women and girls, and can be found in many communities in the United States. With nearly 300 local associations, we serve thousands of women, girls, and their families annually through a variety of programs and services, including housing and nutrition programs, education and training services, violence prevention and recovery programs, and more. Our clients include elderly women, disabled women, women and girls escaping violence, and low-income and homeless women and their families.

As providers of services to women and girls, including elderly and disabled women, the YWCA witnesses firsthand how the costs of medical care and prescription drugs impact the lives of women. The YWCA and our clients are counting on Congress to help make health care in the United States more affordable and accessible. Working to lower drug prices for those enrolled in Medicare Part D is an important first step in this direction. We applaud your introduction of H.R. 4 and we hope that this legislation is passed swiftly by a bipartisan majority of the House and Senate and enacted into law.

We look forward to working with you on this and other issues affecting women across our country.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Cole, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
YWCA USA